Every Drop Counts

Author: Sanjana Kapur | Illustrator: Shreya Sen | Level 3

Color Guide

Ahinsa Prakashan

“Mina Chachi is here!” Samir said excitedly. Samir had been waiting all day for his Chachi to arrive. She was an expert in water conservation. She had promised Samir that she would help him with his school project.

Samir ran down the steps and hugged his Chachi! “I am glad to see you too, Samir,” Mina Chachi smiled.

“Chachi, my project is due next week! I have to list down different ways by which we can save water. I only have two so far.” Samir said.

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“Not bad! What are the two ways you have thought of?” Mina Chachi asked.

“I asked Nani and Nana what they do. Nani said that they water their plants with the water they use to wash their vegetables. I thought that it was a great idea.” Samir said.

“That is an excellent idea,” Mina Chachi agreed.
“What is the second way you have come up with?”

“Umm...I thought if I put a bucket on the terrace every time it rained, I could collect water. Then I could use the bucket of water in the toilet, instead of flushing,” Samir explained.

“Wow! You are trying to set up your own rainwater harvesting system... That’s clever of you,” Mina Chachi said.

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Samir rang the bell. A cheerful aunty greeted them...
"Hello Tara Aunty! I am Samir... I wanted to know what you do to save water," Samir asked.

"Well Samir, both Sahil and I use just one bucket to have a bath. It uses a lot less water than a shower," Tara aunty explained.

"I am also very careful about any leaks in the house. I repair a broken pipe without wasting any time."

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“I use only a cup of water to brush my teeth. A running tap uses too much water,” Adi explained.

“I use a twin flush system. I have a small flush that uses very little water and another big one that uses more water. I use the flush according to how much I need. It has helped me save a lot of water,” Nikhil Uncle said.

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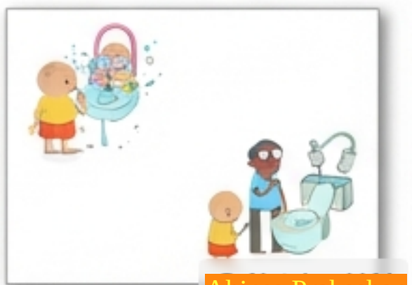

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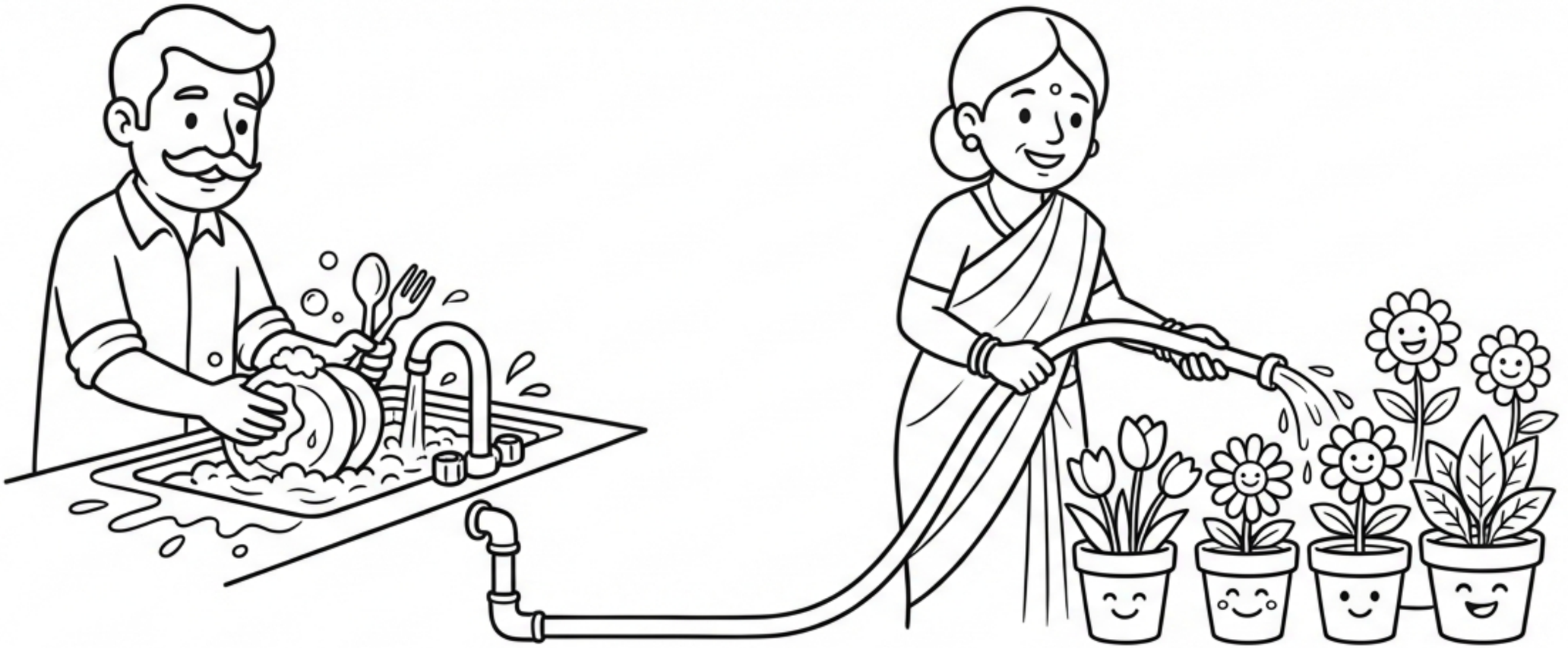

“We scrape all the food wastes from the plates before washing anything. We also also wash all the dishes in a sink full of water, instead of running the tap. We also wash the vegetables in a bowl full of water.” Rao uncle said.

“I collect all that water and use it for the plants,” Rao aunty said.

“My Nana and Nani do that too!” Samir said, excitedly.

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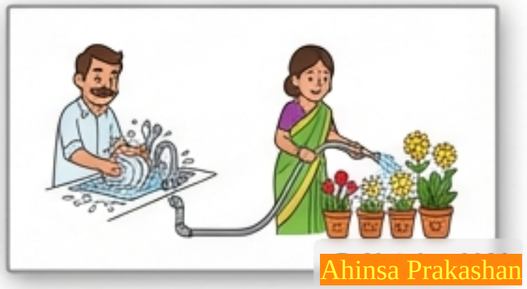

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“I don’t use a hose pipe to wash my car and bike,” Mala aunty said.

“I use a bucket of water instead. In fact, I try and use rainwater for most of my washing.

Samir said goodbye to all the residents and went home. “I think I have enough to finish my school project, Mina Chachi! Thank you so much,” said Samir.

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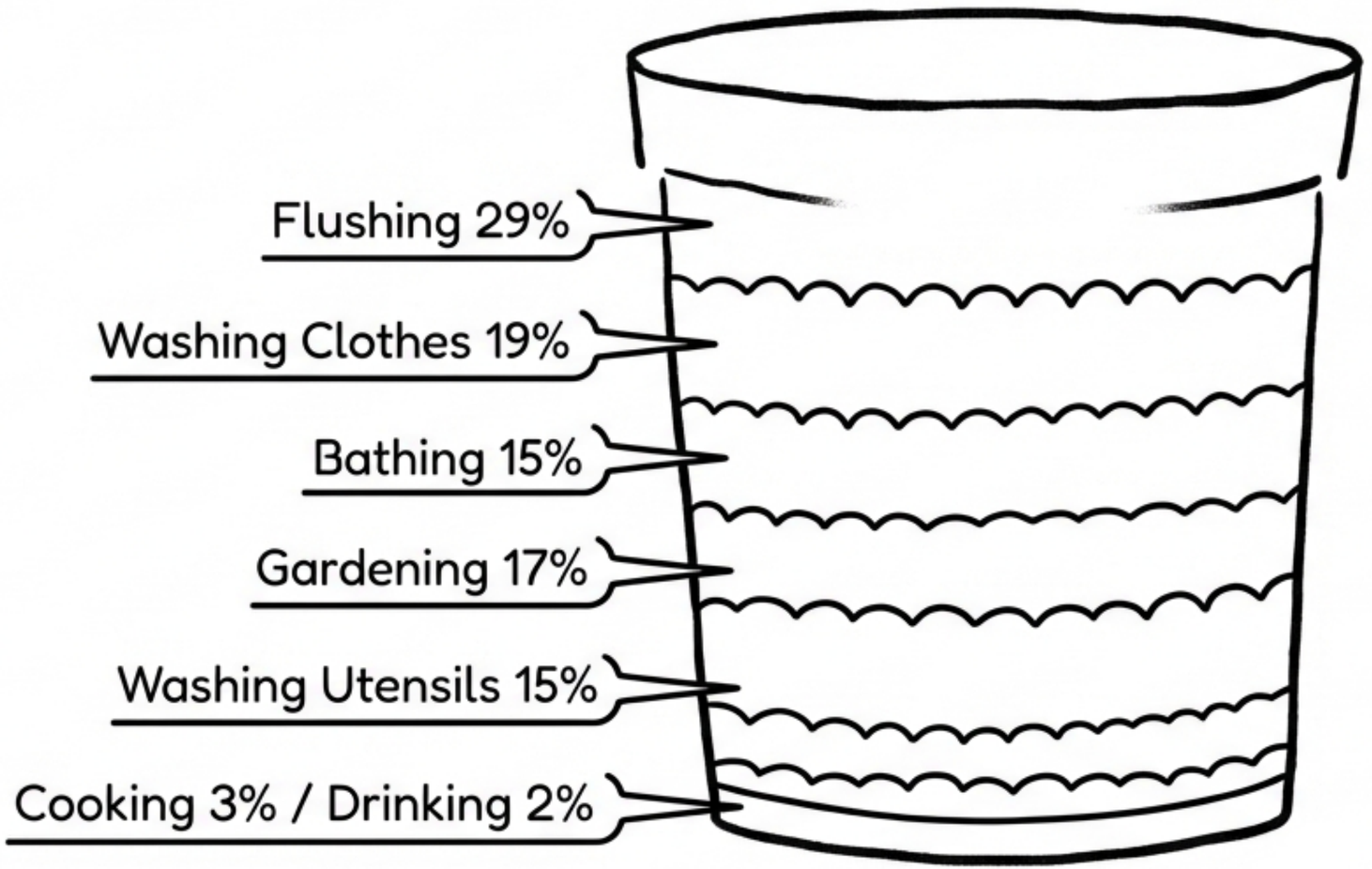
“I am going to try and use everything I learnt today... I also realised that we use the least amount of water for drinking and cooking. Is that correct?”

“Most of our water gets used in flushing, washing utensils, washing clothes, gardening and bathing,” Mina Chachi replied.



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“Do you know why we need to save water?” Mina Chachi asked...
“Because 1.3 billion people in India don’t have clean water like you and me!”

“1.3 billion! How much is that? It sounds like a big number,” said Samir.

“It is a big number. It is a number made out of 13 digits!” Mina Chachi said. “There are some people who travel for four hours just to fill two buckets of water! When we save water, we help all those people!”

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I am Ram.

I haven't gone to school for three weeks because my stomach has been upset.
The water we drink is very dirty.

I am Bushy, the Egret.

The water that comes from your homes into this lake is making it very difficult for me to breathe!

I am Nira.

I walk for four hours everyday so that my children have some water to drink.

I am Ghuru, the Gharial.

The water in the Yamuna is becoming dirtier by the day. If you help save this water, you will also save my home!

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“If you make an effort and tell enough people around you to save water, you will be helping the environment,” Mina Chachi said.

“I will do my best, Mina Chachi!” Samir replied. “I promise!”

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Activity: Color the circles Green for habits that SAVE water, and Red for habits that WASTE water.

Use a mug of water to brush teeth

Wash car with a hose pipe

Have a bath with a bucket

Use the shower to have a bath

Collect rainwater to use around the house

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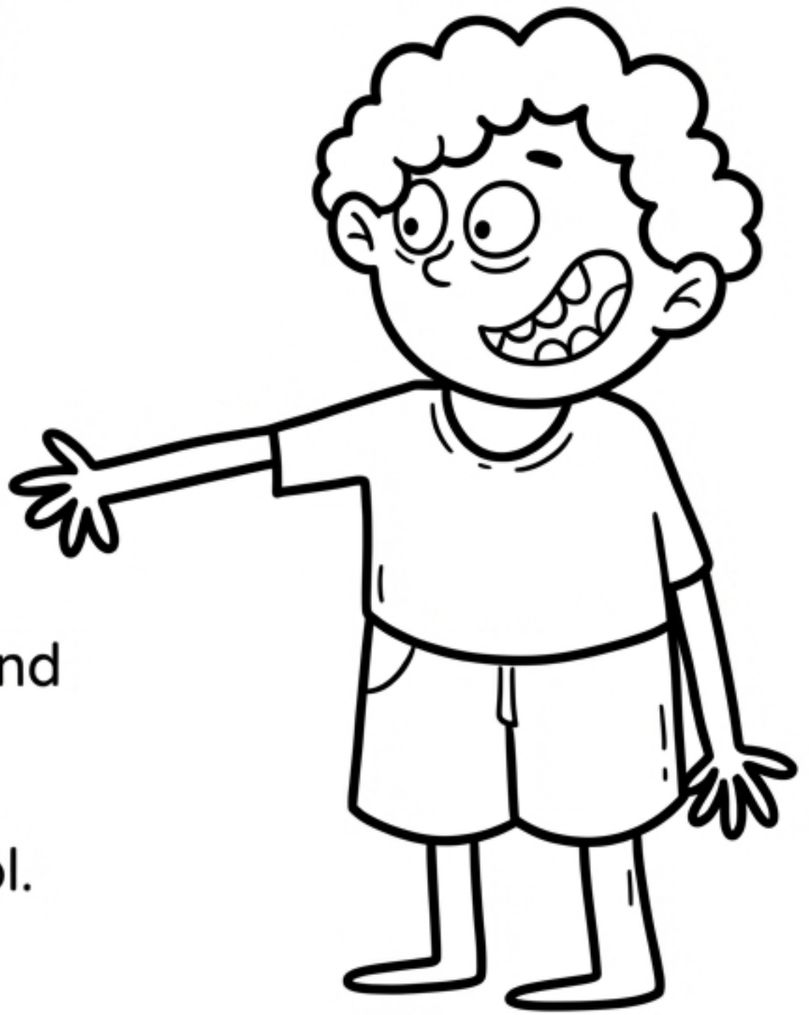
ACTIVE CITIZEN PLEDGE

I _____ take the Active Citizen Pledge.
I am a citizen of India. I care about my responsibilities and rights. I care about my friends, my family, and my community.

I pledge to:
Take care of my school, parks, playgrounds and other public spaces.
Treat everyone with respect.
Save water and electricity at home and school.
Segregate waste, not litter.
Use public transport.
Not throw plastic in lakes and rivers.



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